



CITY OF MANCHESTER

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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF MANCHESTER TO HOST PUBLIC HEALTH FORUM ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

The Manchester Health Department announced today that it will host a Public Health Forum on Avian Influenza on Monday, November 14, 2005 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Manchester Health Department, 1528 Elm Street. The Forum is cosponsored by the NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services and as part of a statewide effort to educate residents on the Avian Influenza virus (H5N1) and how local and state partners are planning to respond to a potential outbreak of this disease.

Dr. Lisa Carlson, Medical Director for the Manchester Health Department, says, “It is important for individuals to know the facts about influenza viruses and understand some of the differences between the typical, annual flu virus and the Avian Influenza virus (H5N1). Also, during this meeting, simple measures we all can take to protect ourselves and others from typical, annual flu will be emphasized. Such measures include covering sneezes and coughs, handwashing afterwards and frequently with soap and water, and smoking cessation.”

Division of Public Health Services Director MaryAnn Cooney, State Epidemiologist Dr. Jose Montero and Manchester Health Department Deputy Public Health Director Rich DiPentima will conduct a 50-60 minute presentation to area residents on:

- Avian Influenza overview
- Activities that the state Division of Public Health Services and Manchester Health Department are undertaking to plan for a flu pandemic
- Potential impact of a pandemic on the public
- Primary and secondary prevention actions individuals can take during a pandemic

The presentations will be followed by question and answer period with the presenters and Manchester Health Department Medical Director, Dr. Lisa Carlson, Manchester Health Department Immunization Program Manager, Susan Gagnon and Manchester Health Department Chief of Environmental Health and Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, Timothy Soucy.

For more information about the Public Health Forum on Avian Influenza, please contact the Manchester Health Department at 624-6466.

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